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Letter dated 24 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my report on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), covering the period from 15 November 2017 to 15 May 2018 (S/2018/521), and to your related statement, as President of the Security Council, on 10 August 2018 (S/PRST/2018/17).

In the aforementioned report, I noted that a key priority of UNOCA in its next mandate would be to work with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and its member States towards laying the groundwork for the structural prevention of election-related violence.

I also noted that the complex nature of ongoing conflicts in the subregion, the emergence of new threats to peace and security and outstanding challenges required sustained and more coordinated and coherent support from the United Nations and the international community. As ECCAS and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) pursued their efforts to implement institutional reforms, mobilizing the necessary political and technical support should remain a major priority. The convening of regular tripartite meetings between UNOCA, ECCAS and CEMAC would be a useful tool in that process.

In addition, I noted that the growing transregional threats also necessitated strengthened cooperation between ECCAS and the Economic Community of West African States and between UNOCA and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

In the light of the above, I recommend that the mandate of UNOCA be extended for a period of three years, from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2021.

I also submit herewith the draft mandate of UNOCA for the period 2018–2021, in which the four core objectives of UNOCA are described (see annex). The objectives are to be pursued in close collaboration with ECCAS, CEMAC, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other relevant regional and subregional partners.

UNOCA will continue to work in close collaboration with UNOWAS on issues related to maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as on the impact of the activities of Boko Haram on countries of the Lake Chad Basin region. In line with the policy of the United Nations, UNOCA will ensure that gender and human rights are mainstreamed into its activities.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

Annex

Draft mandate of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa for the period 2018–2021

The objectives below are to be pursued by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in close collaboration with relevant subregional and regional partners.

Objective 1. Monitor political developments in Central Africa, carry out good offices and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General and enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion, with due attention to human rights and gender dimensions:

(a) Perform good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General, including in countries facing electoral or institutional crises;

(b) Enhance the capacity for conflict prevention, mediation and peace consolidation of subregional actors, including the Economic Community of Central African States;

(c) Serve as secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and assist States in implementing the recommendations of the Committee, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Objective 2. Support United Nations efforts in the subregion as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives:

(a) Promote and support, as appropriate, regional and subregional efforts to address the impact of emerging security threats, including Boko Haram, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and other cross-border threats, such as issues related to transhumance, as well as the regional dimension of security crises in some States of the subregion;

(b) Support the African Union-led African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic;

(c) Coordinate the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (S/2012/481), in close collaboration with the African Union and relevant partners;

(d) Cooperate with subregional organizations, in particular the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and other key partners and assist them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion and in the strengthening of their capacities.

Objective 3. Enhance coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security:

(a) Increase internal United Nations exchanges, collaboration and joint initiatives within the subregion;

(b) Advocate the priorities identified by United Nations entities in the subregion.

Objective 4. Advise the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the region on significant developments in Central Africa:

(a) Undertake regular analysis of, and reports on, the situation in the countries of the subregion and regional trends;

(b) Establish a dedicated analytical unit integrated under the Political Affairs Section.

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